

tricts of Uttar Pradesh during 1991;

(b) whether there is any scheme with the government for the expansion of post offices in these districts during 1992-93; and

(c) if so, the number of villages in the districts proposed to be covered?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the year 1991, total number of post offices opened in Unnao and Ghaziabad districts of Uttar Pradesh is 11 and 7 respectively.

(b) and (c). Expansion of postal network is envisaged during the year 1992-93. It is, however, not feasible to give details in this regard as the Annual Plan targets for 1992-93 have not been finalised.

New Tourism Policy

5162. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new tourism policy; and

(b) if so, by what time the policy is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). An Action Plan on Tourism is being finalised.

Irrigation projects in Bihar

5163. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects in Bihar approved by the

Union Government during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of the projects still pending with the Union Government for approval alongwith the reasons thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) While no major or medium irrigation project was accorded investment clearance during the Seventh Five year Plan, Advisory Committee had considered two major and four medium irrigation projects and found them acceptable subject to compliance by the State Government of the observations of the appraising agencies.

(b) On the five major projects at the Centre for appraisal namely, Sukhsenaghat pump canal, Kosi project phase-II, Gandak project phase II, zamania pump canal and Burhai reservoir project, the state Government is required to comply with observations of appraising agencies

(c) The clearance of the project depends upon how soon the state Government complies with the observations of central appraising agencies, obtains environmental and forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and clearance from the Ministry of Welfare in respect of rehabilitation and resettlement plans, if it involves scheduled castes/Tribes population.

[English]

Price of Cast Iron Spun Pipes

5164. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI SUDARSHAN RAY
CHADHAURI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any case of under cutting of price of cast iron spun pipes by IISCO; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The prices of cast iron spun pipes of IISCO are not controlled. IISCO fixes its prices keeping its legitimate commercial interests in view. Government are not aware of any specific case of under cutting of prices of cast iron spun pipes by IISCO.

(b) does not arise.

Inter-State Multi-Purpose Projects

5165 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the reasons for increasing in the cost of inter-State Multi-purpose projects against the original estimated cost;

(b) the steps taken by the Union government to reduce the gap between the original estimates and the escalated cost; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of these projects as originally planned?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) the details and reasons for increase in costs of river valley projects are inadequate allocation of funds by the beneficiary States, inadequate investigations at the time of formulation of the projects leading to major changes in designs during construction, inadequate provisions in the origi-

nal estimate for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, environmental safeguards, canal works and shortage of essential construction materials such as cement, steel and explosives.

(b) and (c). the strategy adopted in the Eighth Plan is to priorities the on-going projects for allocation of funds. Also, the Planning Commission has decided to rigorously follow earmarking of funds for the projects.

Utilisation of Solar Energy

5166. SHRIGANGADHRA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of consolar energy being utilised by the country;

(b) whether existing technology is enough to utilise the Solar Energy to the fullest possible extent;

(c) if not, the other steps the Government propose to take to encourage the development of Solar Energy system;

(d) the extent of its utilisation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Solar Energy is being utilized through two different routes in the country, viz (i) photovoltaic route and (ii) solar thermal route. In the first case solar energy is directly converted into electricity using solar photovoltaic cells. In the second case Solar Energy is converted into heat energy which is further used for variety of applications such as cooking, heating of